the provisions in the Rules relating to Conduct and Discipline are meant to check misbehaviour.

Purchase of I.V. fluids from outside in Safdarjung Hospital

1397. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that recently Safdarjung Hospital authorities violated the norms prescribed by the Ministry by opting to buy intervenous I.V. fluids at higher rates from outside agencies rather than from Government owned Medical Store Depot which usually supplies these fluids at a much lower cost to the hospitals;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to fix the responsibility for this lapse;

(c) whether any departmental enquiry has been initiated against the officials responsible at the Safdarjung Hospital;

(d) if so, whether the losses suffered by Government would be recovered from the officials held responsible; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (e) Safdarjung Hospital has reported that the procurement of I.V. Fluids were to be made from the following 4 Government undertaking firms :—

(i) M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pune.

(ii) M/s. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Gurgaon.

(iii) M/s. Bengal Immunity, Calcutta.

(iv) M/s. U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd., Lucknow.

The rate enquiry was called from abovementioned 4 firms and purchases were made from the M/s. Bengal Immunity being the lowest approved, failing which from M/s. U.P.D.P.L., Lucknow being the second lowest. In some cases when both the approved firms failed to supply the material and purchases were made from M/s. Super Bazar to meet immediate requirements.

Selection under central quota of seats in Medical Colleges

1398. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the students in Mizoram State launched an agitation demanding that the Central Government should select only legal students to fill up the central quota seats in medical colleges;

(b) if so, what are the facts which led to the agitation; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the rules making the local linquistic identity as criteria for selection under central quota ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) Reports were received that students in the State of Mizoram launched an agitation against the nomination of non-Mizo students by the State Government in respect of the central quota seats alloted to the State.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Study on the consumption of Tobacco

1399. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of tobacco has been on the increase in the country for the last three years; if so the details thereof ?

(b) whether Government have studied the impact of statutory warning on the use of tobacco by general masses in the country;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any study to ascertain the impact of use of tobacco on cancer and other diseases and if so, the details thereof; and